

New Year Greetings

from the

President

Nuwejaarsgroete

van die

President

Dr. P. F. H. Wagner, President of the Medical Association of South Africa, sends the following message of greeting for the New Year to members of the Association:

It gives me great pleasure to extend to all members of the Medical Association of South Africa the heartiest Seasonal Greetings. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Federal Council and all members of the Association for having honoured me by electing me President for the year. I am deeply conscious of this honour, and hope that during my term of office, the membership of the Association will get nearer the ideal of 100 per cent.

I was surprised, when helping to organize the 42nd South African Medical Congress in East London, to find that there are so many non-members, and yet more surprised to find non-members wishing to share the benefits of members at Congress, such as wanting to attend Congress, or read papers at Congress. Surely, personal grievances should be disregarded in working for the good of all. Unity is strength, even more so in our Association than in any other body.

I should like to take this opportunity to express a special word of thanks to the Chairman of Federal Council and to Federal

Dr. P. F. H. Wagner, President van die Mediese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika, stuur die volgende boodskap van Nuwejaarsgroete aan lede van die Vereniging:

Dit is vir my baie aangenaam om die hartlikste geleentheidsgroete aan alle lede van die Mediese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika oor te dra. Ek wil hierdie geleentheid ook gebruik om die lede van die Federale Raad en al die lede van die Vereniging te bedank vir die eer wat hulle aan my bewys het deur my te kies tot President vir die jaar. Ek is diep onder die indruk van die eer en ek hoop dat lidmaatskap van die Vereniging gedurende my dienstermyn naby die oogmerk van 100 persent sal kom.

Toe ek behulpsaam was met die reëlins vir die 42ste Suid-Afrikaanse Mediese Kongres te Oos-Londen, het dit my verbaas om te verneem dat daar so baie nie-lede is. Ek was selfs meer verbaas om te vind dat die nie-lede wou deelneem aan die voorregte van lede by die Kongres, byvoorbeeld om die Kongres by te woon of lesings te lewer. Laat ons hoop dat persoonlike griewe op die agtergrond gestel sal word in die belang van almal. In eenheid lê krag—en dit is selfs meer waar van ons Vereniging as van enige ander liggaam.

Council and all its officials, who have worked so devotedly during the year and have given the Association of their best. I should also like to congratulate Dr. Blignault, our Editor, on the high standard of the *Journal*.

There is a great deal of hard work before Federal Council in this rapidly changing world of ours. It is well that the two medical bodies of this country, the statutory South African Medical and Dental Council, and the voluntary body, our Association, are working together on the friendliest and most cooperative lines. This is very important, especially in view of the fact that the laws of the land may change, giving charters to people outside the medical sciences. Great vigilance is required of both bodies. The laws governing the activities of non-medical persons treating the misguided public for gain are urgently in need of amendment and we hope Parliament will take steps to prevent some of these nefarious practitioners from carrying out their destructive work, causing the unfortunate patient even more pain, suffering and fear, than the disease itself.

With regard to all these problems, and many more, a very close liaison between the Medical Council and our Association is vital and I will strive with all my strength to encourage and foster this.

In conclusion I again wish all members and their wives and families the blessings of a happy New Year.

MESSAGE FROM DR. J. H. STRUTHERS

Chairman of the Federal Council of the Medical Association of South Africa

Once again we stand at the threshold of a New Year. As always, this is an invitation to review the past and consider the future. The present Federal Council, which honoured me by electing me as its Chairman, is now in its third and last year of office. It has been a privilege to be so closely associated with the organization and work of our Association, but, during this period, certain weaknesses have revealed themselves in the organization and these I should like to review.

The Federal Council, which consists of 61 members elected triennially, itself elects an Executive Committee of 10 members, some half a dozen other Standing Committees and occasionally *ad hoc* committees. None of these committees have any real authority and all their deliberations and recommendations are subject to modification and review by the full Council, in matters of detail as well as in matters of principle. This means that the Agenda of Federal Council has become so extensive as to cause permanent chronic congestion. The first three-day meeting of this Federal Council in Durban during September 1957 covered three sessions each day lasting from 9 a.m. until after 11 p.m. This pattern has continued at each biannual meeting and, at the East London meeting in October 1959, there were two evening sessions lasting up to 11.45 p.m. I am sure no medical man in giving a medical opinion would approve of such conditions of work. Under such stress conditions,

Ek wil hierdie geleentheid graag gebruik om die Voor-sitter van die Federale Raad sowel as die lede van die Federale Raad en sy amptenare, wat sulke toegewyde diens gelewer het gedurende die jaar, spesiaal te bedank. Ek wil dr. Blignault, ons Redakteur, ook gelukwens met die hoë gehalte van die *Tydskrif*.

Daar is baie moeilike werk wat op die Federale Raad wag—in 'n wêreld wat vinnig verander. Dit is goed dat die twee mediese liggame in ons land, die statutêre Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige en Tandheelkundige Raad, en ons Vereniging waarvan lidmaatskap vrywillig is, saamwerk op 'n vriendelike en koöperatiewe grondslag. Dit is baie belangrik, veral met die oog op die moontlikheid dat die landswette mag verander deurdat regserkenning aan persone buite die medisyne toegestaan kan word. Groot waaksaamheid moet deur albei liggame beoefen word. Die wette wat betrekking het op die optrede van nie-mediese persone wat 'n misleide publiek behandel en geldelike voordeel daaruit trek, behoort dringend gewysig te word. Dit is te hope dat die Parlement stappe sal doen om hierdie onverantwoordelike praktisyns te verhoed om skadelike werk te doen wat vir die pasiënte meer pyn, lyding en vrees kan veroorsaak as hul siekte self.

Met betrekking tot al hierdie probleme, en nog baie ander, is noue samewerking tussen die Mediese Raad en ons Vereniging noodsaaklik. Ek sal met al die krag tot my beskikking hierdie doel aanmoedig en nastreef.

Ter afsluiting wil ek graag weer aan alle lede met hul eggenotes en gesinne, 'n geseënde en gelukkige Nuwe Jaar toewens.

BOODSKAP VAN DR. J. H. STRUTHERS

Voorsitter van die Federale Raad van die Mediese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika

Ons staan weer op die drempel van 'n Nuwe Jaar. Soos gewoonlik is dit 'n geleentheid om terug te kyk na die verlede en oor die toekoms te dink. Die huidige Federale Raad, wat my die onderskeiding aangedoen het om my as sy Voor-sitter te verkies, staan nou in sy derde en laaste jaar van werksaamhede. Dit was waarlik 'n voorreg om so nou verbonde te wees aan die organisasie en die werk van ons Vereniging. Gedurende hierdie periode het sekere tekortkominge in ons organisasie egter op die voorgrond getree en ek wil graag hieraan aandag gee.

Die Federale Raad wat uit 61 lede bestaan en driejaarlikse gekies word, kies sy eie Uitvoerende Komitee van 10 lede, asook 'n halfdosyn ander Vaste Komitees sowel as *ad hoc* komitees by geleentheid. Geeneen van hierdie komitees het volmag nie en al hulle oorwegings en aanbevelings is onderhewig aan verandering en heroorweging deur die hele Raad—dit geld vir beginselsake sowel as vir ondergeskikte punte. Die gevolg hiervan is dat die Agenda van die Federale Raad so lywig geword het dat die toestand van permanente chroniese opeenhoping ontstaan. Die eerste byeenkoms van hierdie Federale Raad in Durban in September 1957 het drie dae lank geduur met drie sessies op elke dag wat van 9 vm. tot 11 nm. geduur het. Hierdie patroon is by elke twee-jaarlikse byeenkoms herhaal en, gedurende die byeenkoms in Oktober 1959 te Oos-Londen, was daar twee aandessies wat tot 11.45 nm. geduur het.